

In This Issue

[Gahanna Considering Income Tax Rate Increase](#)

[Gahanna Mayor Outlines Income Tax Scenarios](#)

[Skilled Nursing Campus Proposed for Gahanna](#)

[Regional Development News](#)

[Columbus - One of The World's Smartest Cities](#)

[Columbus 2020 Update](#)

[Columbus Business First News](#)

[Tech-Tip of the Month](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration News](#)

[Upcoming Events!](#)

[Resources & Information](#)

Local Development News



Gahanna Considering Income Tax Rate Increase

In what she called one of the most important messages she has delivered to Gahanna City Council, Mayor Becky Stinchcomb asked council to let residents decide the future of the city by placing an issue on the May ballot that would increase Gahanna's income-tax rate from 1.5% to 2.5%.

If the issue were placed on the ballot and approved by voters, the city's income-tax rate change would be effective beginning in January 2014. Stinchcomb said the city's tax rate hasn't changed since 1977.

Full story [here!](#)



Welcomes this business to the community!

Panera Arrives at Gahanna Retail Development



Panera Bread is the latest quick-dining spot to open at the newly created Commons at Clark Hall in Gahanna.

The 4,500 square foot bakery cafe opened at 91 N. Hamilton Road, becoming the 31st Panera in Central Ohio for franchisee Covelli Enterprises Inc.

Owner Sam Covelli said close proximity to Gahanna Lincoln High School and the heavy traffic along Hamilton Road and Granville Street made the site appealing.

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Huntington Bank is Relocating

Beginning Monday, January 28, the Rocky Fork Branch of

Huntington Bank will be operating out of its new location at 380 S. Hamilton Road.



For more details, call (614) 480-0028 or email Assistant VP of Business Banking, Gary James, at Gary.James@huntington.com.

Gahanna Mayor Outlines Income Tax Scenarios

Gahanna residents could see more service and expansion of multipurpose trails if voters go to the ballot on May 7 and approve an increase in the city's income tax rate.

If the issue is not approved, Mayor Becky Stinchcomb said, city staffing levels and equipment for all departments, including the police force, would be at "considerable risk."

Full story [here!](#)



Skilled Nursing Campus Proposed for Gahanna

The Gahanna City Council held a public hearing on a plan to build Central Ohio's first Otterbein Homes Skilled Nursing & Rehab neighborhood.

Located at 975 N. Hamilton Road, this is a vacant and heavily treed site.

The city's Planning Commission already has approved an application to rezone 5.4 acres from planned commercial center to suburban office, and a subdivision without plat to split the 5.4 acres from an 11.5 acre parcel.

Full story [here!](#)

Regional Development News

Workforce Grant Money Still Available

The Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program will foster a highly skilled workforce to enhance the growth of businesses in Ohio.

In partnership with OhioMeansJobs.com, the program opened applications for the \$20 million in grant money on January 7. While the program has received more applications than it can fulfill, conservative requests are still welcome as some applications may be ineligible.

These funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis, so if your business is interested in pursuing these funds, [apply soon!](#)

Full story [here!](#)



Calendar or Fiscal? Which Tax Year is Right for your Small Business?

Did you start a business last year? No? Are you planning to start one this year? Did you know you can choose the tax year you intend to operate under? Choose well, because there are pros and cons for either method.

A tax year is an accounting period for which you must report your taxable income and business expenses, and the law requires you to operate according to a consistent tax year.

The most common is the most obvious: the calendar year. However, businesses can also report based on a fiscal tax year and a short tax year.

Full story [here!](#)

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Ways to Safeguard and Protect Your Small Business Data

Small businesses are widely adopting data back-up practices to ensure data is retrievable should a disaster occur, but gaps remain.

According to a July 2012 study by accounting software company Sage, the bulk of small businesses are backing up key data such as financial information, but most businesses back up that data on-site only.

Furthermore, the study found that only 38% of surveyed small businesses have a formal emergency or disaster preparedness plan.

Full story [here!](#)

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Small Business Tax Incentives in the Fiscal Cliff Deal

America's 28 million small businesses are the backbone of our economy. These past few weeks, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 has delivered them some really good news.

The solution reached by the President and Congress included extensions of several small businesses tax incentives designed to spur innovation, support capital investment, and make it easier to hire new workers. In fact, the legislation extended some of the most important tax credits that the President signed

Columbus - One of The World's Smartest Cities

A smart city educates workers and funds economic programs to compete globally. It uses technology to solve problems. Giants such as New York City and Shanghai come to mind first, but the smart cities the Intelligent Community Forum 'Think Tank' highlights each year are often small and out of the spotlight.

Columbus is one of them, says Think Tank co-founder Lou Zacharilla. Recently named to the organization's annual Smart21 list, Columbus stood out with an unemployment rate below state figures since 2010 and a regional development approach that includes sharing fiber-optic networks.

Full story [here!](#)



Columbus 2020 Update

The Columbus 2020 has the great fortune to work with nearly 250 companies each year as they build their business cases to expand or locate new facilities. Their evaluations are thorough, as they try to reduce risk and assess opportunity. The decisions impact lives and often involve millions of dollars.

An increasingly sophisticated and intense focus is placed on people - a.k.a. human resources. The quantity and quality of existing talent, the ability of state and local government to support the company and train workers on a just-in-time basis, and the area's ability to deliver over the long-term through its educational institutions.

Full story [here!](#)



Central Ohio Jobless Rate Resumes Decline in December

The Columbus region's unemployment rate edged down to 5.4 percent in December as the area showed continued growth in jobs from a year earlier.

The seven-county area included 906,900 people working last month, an improvement from 895,100 a year earlier, when the regional jobless rate was 6.4 percent.

An estimated 51,800 Central Ohioans were out of a job but looking for work in December.

Full story [here!](#)

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Columbus Economy Ranked No. 4 in U.S.

Columbus hung onto the No. 4 position in a December ranking of cities by economic prowess. The On Number Economic Index tracks 102 major markets with populations of more than 500,000

into law during his first term.

Full story [here!](#)

Upcoming Events!



When: Wednesday, January 30, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Where: Gahanna Middle School West
350 N. Stygler Road

For more details [click here!](#)

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16th Annual Groundhog Day Economic Forecast Breakfast

When: Friday, February 1, 7:30am to 9:30am

Where: Creekside Conference & Event Center
101 Mill Street, Suite 300

Networking, economic forecasting and a celebration of Gahanna's business community.

For more details [click here!](#)

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Membership Verification for Directory

The Chamber is preparing to publish their "2013-2014 Membership Directory & Business Resource Guide." Please login and review your company listing posted on the website, as some contact information will be included in the directory. (Company name, address, phone, business category)

To login, go to the website and click MEMBER LOGIN - top right of Home. Your Username is the email address for the main contact at your business. Type anything random into Password and follow the prompt for "Lost your password?". Please update your Business Profile no later than January 31st.

For more details contact Becky:

Becky@GahannaAreaChamber.com or (614) 471-0451.

in a monthly report for Columbus Business First parent American
City Business Journals Inc.

It measures 18 factors, including private-sector job growth,
unemployment and housing price appreciation.

Full story [here!](#)

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New Business Filings in Ohio Grow for 3rd Consecutive Year

The number of new entities filing to do business in Ohio grew for
the third year in a row. In 2012, more than 88,000 entities filed,
up from about 82,600 in 2011, according to a recent report from
Ohio Secretary of State.

Full story [here!](#)

Tech-Tip of the Month

Make it Easier to Schedule Meetings

If you are a small business owner you may know how much time
is exhausted going back and forth with potential
clients/customers over available meeting times.

There are great tools that sync up with computerized calendars
you may already be using which create a nice interface for other
people to see your availability and schedule meetings.

Full story [here!](#)

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Nanotechnology Can Increase Buildings' Energy Efficiency

Heat loss through factory windows, walls, and ceilings can add
thousands of dollars to building heating and cooling costs.
According to the U.S. Department of Energy, in 2010, buildings
consumed 41% of U.S. energy, mostly as space heating, air
conditioning, and lighting.

Increasing numbers of existing industrial buildings are being
renovated to reduce energy costs by using new nanotechnology
based coatings. These coatings make it possible to reduce
energy bills without major construction costs. Companies owning
older buildings and firms seeking to buy or lease these buildings
can realize substantial reductions in operating costs, thereby
making these older buildings more valuable assets.

Full story [here!](#)

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February Lunch: State of the City

When: Thursday, February 14, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Where: Creekside Conference & Event Center
101 Mill Street, Suite 300

Reservations required by Monday, February 11, 2013.

For more details [click here!](#)

Resources & Information



www.gahanna.gov

Looking for available properties in the City? Access our
searchable database for buildings and land for sale or lease.

www.gahannaareachamber.com

Are you a member of the Gahanna Area Chamber of
Commerce? If not, check out all the benefits of belonging.

www.business.ohio.gov

The Ohio Business Gateway can help you find the information
and services you need to keep your business thriving.



www.grownow.ohio.gov

growNOW, brought to you by the Ohio State Treasurer's office,
enables small business owners to receive a 3% interest rate
reduction on new or existing small business loans.

<https://aepretailenergy.com/>

AEP can assist businesses looking for a retail electricity provider.
Save money on electricity now!

WWW.SBA.GOV

Eligible for Government Financing? Use SBA's Search Tool

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)